



Gainsborough Primary & Nursery School

Reception New Starters

Information Pack

Getting ready for school

Below are a few things that you can do before your child begins school that will help them to settle in and feel comfortable.

- Clearly label all items of clothing – including coats, hats, gloves and shoes, lunch boxes and book bags. (Also, please check from time to time that the labels are still in place and clear.)
- Encourage your child to be responsible for putting away their own things. They will be encouraged in school to put book bags, books, lunch boxes, water bottles, coats and jumpers in their correct places from the beginning of the school year.
- Allow your child to practice dressing and undressing, including using fasteners that they find difficult. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. We are happy to support your child with dressing and undressing when necessary, but do encourage them to have a go.
- Ensure that your child is able to use the toilet independently; the undressing/dressing routine, wiping, cleanliness, flushing the toilet, washing and drying hands are all essential life-skills. If your child has a particular medical problem with toileting, please discuss this with us.
- Encourage your child to feed him/herself and use a knife and fork independently. Praise your child for showing good table manners.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully at appropriate times and follow simple instructions.
- Support your child to take turns when sharing games and activities.
- Encourage a sense of responsibility by asking your child to clear away their toys independently.

Talking about starting school

We aim to make your child's start to school as smooth as possible. You can help us by...

- Encouraging them to look forward to school and feel excited about their new experience.
- Being positive, as this will help them to feel positive too.
- Saying goodbye and explaining clearly that you will be coming back to get them later. Please remember, if your child cries when you leave, a staff team member will be there to support and reassure your child. We find that children generally calm down and become involved in what is going on in the classroom within 5 – 10 minutes. We appreciate that this can be upsetting, but do not worry as we will work together to support your child through this period of transition.
- When you pick up your child, ask them about their day and what they have been doing.
- Praise and reward them for settling well.

What your child needs

School Uniform

Our Uniform is:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- Pale blue or white shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers, skirts or shorts
- Sensible flat black school shoes or boots NOT trainers or pumps
- Summer dresses in blue stripes or check
- Plain white, black or grey socks or tights – no patterns

Clothing for Physical Education

- Shorts and plain white or pale blue T Shirt (no football or team shirts)
- Pumps – fashion trainers are not suitable for apparatus work

Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school every day.

Jewellery

If your child has pierced ears, they may wear a stud, but not a ring-type sleeper. Earrings should be removed or covered with tape for PE lessons.

No other jewellery is to be worn.

Watches are permitted provided they are flat on the wrist. All jewellery is the child's responsibility at all times.

Book Bag

A Gainsborough Primary School book bag can be purchased from our online supplier.

Water Bottle

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle (containing water only) in school every day. Please DO NOT PUT WATER BOTTLES IN BOOK BAGS; we lose many expensive reading books due to leaky water bottles.

Online Shop

Gainsborough have teamed up with School Style Ltd who have created a secure on-line school shop for us. This allows you to shop at your convenience, at any time, including school holidays, to buy any of our school uniform items.

You can visit the online shop by going to the site at www.myschoolstyle.com/school/gainsborough.

The School Day

- School starts promptly at 8.45 and we ask that you wait with your child in the outdoor area until the classroom doors are opened. Doors are locked at 8.55 and if your child arrives after this time, they will need to be brought to the main school office.
- Lunch time is from 11.45 until 12.30
- Home time is at 3pm.

To begin with, we welcome you to support your child in coming in to the classroom each morning if it is needed. After a week or so children will be encouraged to say goodbye at the classroom door. This becomes easier as their confidence and maturity grows.

Open Door Policy and Communication

It is important to keep us informed about things that might affect your child. Your child's class teacher will be available for you to talk to and can take short messages at the start of the day. Obviously as mornings are very busy, if you need to talk for more than a brief moment, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher at the end of the day. This can be done in person or by telephone. Similarly, a staff team member will inform you of things that have happened to your child at school, such as a bumped head, or your child's class teacher might ask for an appointment to discuss your child's progress with you.

Please check your child's book bag every day for letters from school. Our weekly newsletters are emailed out to parents/carers so **please make sure that we have an up to date email address for you.**

Parents and Carers in School

'Stay and Play' sessions will be organised to give parents and carers the chance to join their child in school to look at their work and achievements. We also organise events throughout the year where you will be invited into school for various occasions such as 'Look at our Learning'.

Home Learning

Your child will be given a Home/School reading diary which can be used for communication about learning between home and school.

We like to hear about your child's achievements at home and to help us find out about these significant events, you can record these Wow moments in their reading diary. This may be events such as counting to twenty for the first time, writing some words, retelling a story, a new baby in the family, talking about insects your child has found... or anything else that you feel is important! Everything is always interesting and useful to us!

Keeping Your Child Safe

Our top priority is to provide as safe an environment as possible for your child. You can help with this in a number of ways...

- Provide us with emergency contact numbers and please do let the school office know straight away if they change.
- Please let us know if there are any changes in the person who usually picks up your child. If it is an emergency or you only find out at short notice, please telephone the school office. **We will only let your child go with another adult if we are informed beforehand.**

- All children must be brought to and collected from school by an adult. Please remain with your child until the doors open at beginning of the school day.
- Please let us know of any medical conditions affecting your child or any other factor affecting their wellbeing.
- Please let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have.

Teaching and Learning

The Learning Environment

We have two classrooms in Reception which are semi open plan, allowing us to share one big space across the two classes. This allows us to have larger areas to develop specific skills and learning for each child. We also have a well-resourced outdoor area and a separate forest area for further activities and sessions. For certain parts of the day, such as adult led activities, registration, phonics, number starters and story time, we will work as two separate classes in our own areas.

At Gainsborough Primary and Nursery School we believe that children learn best when:

- They feel safe and secure
- They know what is expected of them
- They feel respected and listened to
- They are praised whenever possible
- They are supported to achieve

We believe that children need an active, play-based, problem-solving curriculum with plenty of challenge. Children are encouraged to develop a positive self-image and develop in confidence through play and free choice. They have free choice in all areas of the curriculum both inside and outside the classroom and are supported by adults in what they choose to do. Every day we ensure the children have lots of physical activity and fresh air, the freedom to develop their own ideas and skills, opportunities to ask questions, to explain and to discuss experiences, support in establishing right and wrong ways of behaving, and the knowledge that they are appreciated and valued as individuals.

Through play children can...

- make sense of the world
- practise ideas, concepts and skills
- learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules
- rehearse their feelings
- take risks and make mistakes
- think creatively and imaginatively
- investigate and solve problems
- communicate with others

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. The reformed EYFS, effective from September 2012, consists of three prime areas of learning and development and four specific areas.

Prime areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Assessment and Record Keeping

Your child's Learning Journey Record

Throughout your child's time in Reception at Gainsborough we will be observing, assessing and recording their progress. Each child will have an individual learning journey record where observations, photographs and anecdotal notes are stored. These will help us to identify your child's strengths and needs. You will be invited into school on various occasions throughout the year to look at your child's learning journey record with your child and their class teacher.

You will also have an opportunity to meet with your child's Class Teacher at Parent Evening sessions held in the Autumn and Summer terms to discuss their progress. Together, we will agree on some learning targets and next steps for your child. You will receive a written report during the Spring term.

We welcome your contributions regarding your child's development and any comments about significant events in your child's life. Parents are also encouraged to contact us with comments, observations and photographs at any time throughout the year.

Lunch

Under the Government's Universal Infant Free School meals initiative all school meals at lunchtime in our school are **free for children in Reception-Year 2**. We would strongly request you to encourage your children to take advantage of this.

The ethos behind this Government initiative comes from The School Food Plan which presented evidence that "universal free school meals leads to positive improvements in health, attainment and social interaction as well as helping families with the cost of living". The menu for school lunches can be found on our school website.

Drinks and snacks

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle (containing water only) in school every day. Milk is provided free for your child each day until their 5th birthday and fresh fruit is also provided free for all children as part of the Healthy Schools Initiative. It is essential that we are made aware of any special dietary requirements or allergies.

Behaviour

We expect high standards of behaviour from all our children. We make clear the boundaries of good and unacceptable behaviour. Our school rules are 'Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful'. Relationships are of the utmost importance to us. Children are praised for their good behaviour and given the reasons why they are being praised. Children are encouraged to talk about any difficulties and problems with their peers, should these arise, and start to feel confident in seeking their own solutions. If we find there are difficulties concerned with your child's behaviour or any other matters, we may ask to discuss these with you. More details can be found in our school Behaviour policy which is on our website.

Illness and absence

Good attendance and punctuality is of vital importance to your child's education. Please inform the school office if your child is unable to attend due to illness. A copy of our Attendance Policy is available on our website.

If you have any queries or concerns about your child and their induction, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

admin@gainsborough.cheshire.sch.uk or EYFS@gainsborough.cheshire.sch.uk

or by phone on 01270 685328